

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A literary work accounting method, comprising:
 - a use right sales step by a seller of selling a right of use of literary works to a customer; and
 - 5 an accounting step of imposing a royalty for the literary works on the customer in accordance with the number of times of use, the hour of use or the amount of use of the literary works by the customer.
- 10 2. A literary work royalty accounting method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the right of use of the literary works is sold in an enciphered state.
- 15 3. A literary work accounting method, comprising:
 - a use right sales step by a seller of selling a right of use of literary works to a customer;
 - 15 a literary work distribution step by a literary work provider of distributing the literary works to the customer through a communication circuit; and
 - 20 an accounting step by the seller of imposing a royalty for the literary works on the customer through the communication circuit in accordance with the number of times of use, the hour of use or the amount of use of the literary works by the customer.
- 25 4. A literary work royalty accounting method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the literary works are distributed in an enciphered state.
- 25 5. A literary work royalty accounting method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the right of use of the literary works is

sold in an enciphered state.

6. A literary work accounting method, comprising:

a use right sales step by a seller of selling a right of use of literary works to a customer through a communication circuit;

a literary work distribution step by a literary work provider of distributing the literary works to the customer through the communication circuit; and

an accounting step by the seller of imposing a royalty 10 for the literary works on the customer through the communication circuit in accordance with the number of times of use, the hour of use or the amount of use of the literary works by the customer.

7. A literary work royalty accounting method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the literary works are distributed in an 15 enciphered state.

8. A literary work royalty accounting method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the right of use of the literary works is sold in an enciphered state.

9. A network system, comprising:

20 a management terminal apparatus for selling a right of use of literary works to a customer through a communication circuit and imposing a royalty for the literary works on the customer through the communication circuit in accordance with the number of times of use, the hour of use or the amount of 25 use of the literary works by the customer;

a literary work provider terminal apparatus for

distributing the literary works to the customer through the communication circuit; and

5 a customer terminal apparatus for purchasing the right of use of the literary works from said management terminal apparatus through the communication circuit, receiving the literary works desired by the customer and distributed thereto from said literary work provider terminal apparatus through the communication circuit and notifying said management terminal apparatus of the number of times of use, the hour of 10 use or the amount of use of the literary works.

10. A network system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said management terminal apparatus sells the right of use of the literary works in an enciphered state.

15. A network system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said management terminal apparatus distributes the literary works in an enciphered state.

20. A network system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said customer terminal apparatus includes decipherment means for deciphering the literary works and the right of use of the literary works both received in an enciphered form from said literary work provider terminal apparatus.

25. A recording medium on which a control program for causing a computer to execute a literary work royalty accounting method is recorded, the control program comprising:

25 a use right sales step by a seller of selling a right of use of literary works to a customer; and

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an accounting step of imposing a royalty for the literary works on the customer in accordance with the number of times of use, the hour of use or the amount of use of the literary works by the customer.

5 14. A recording medium on which a control program for causing a computer to execute a literary work royalty accounting method is recorded, the control program comprising:

 a use right sales step by a seller of selling a right of use of literary works to a customer;

10 a literary work distribution step by a literary work provider of distributing the literary works to the customer through a communication circuit; and

 an accounting step by the seller of imposing a royalty for the literary works on the customer through the communication

15 circuit in accordance with the number of times of use, the hour of use or the amount of use of the literary works by the customer.

 15. A recording medium on which a control program for causing a computer to execute a literary work royalty accounting method is recorded, the control program comprising:

20 a use right sales step by a seller of selling a right of use of literary works to a customer through a communication circuit;

 a literary work distribution step by a literary work provider of distributing the literary works to the customer through the communication circuit; and

25 an accounting step by the seller of imposing a royalty

for the literary works on the customer through the communication circuit in accordance with the number of times of use, the hour of use or the amount of use of the literary works by the customer.